

Raised Bills: SB 184 & HB 5262

I am writing to support both of these bills. It has been shocking to learn that CT, which has been a leader in so many areas, has such outdated voting regulations and that adequate measures have not been taken to change them.

How can we continue to claim equal justice under the law when we systematically deny a vast majority of our citizens the opportunity to vote. I'm thinking of the worker who has children or elderly parents to care for before or after work and thus not sufficient time in the 14-hour one day only vote time frame to get to the polls. Or a person who is suddenly called out of town on election day for any number of reasons. Or someone who has waited for weeks for an important interview or doctor's appointment and is offered a last minute one on election day. Or students who go to school out of town and thought they could come home on election day but find that important obligations keep them from doing so. There are many such instances that depress our vote numbers.

I know that many restrictions need a constitutional amendment to change but continuing the exceptions made during the pandemic can be done now. I urge you to do so as a first step to recognizing that ALL of us should be given the opportunity to vote, not just those for whom it is convenient.

Thank you for your consideration,
Claire Matthews
Essex, CT2